



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

Blending art and science in nurse education; the benefits and impact of creative partnerships

Bennett, M., Rogers, K., Elliott, D. J., & Lavery, P. (2015). *Blending art and science in nurse education; the benefits and impact of creative partnerships*. Poster session presented at RCN Education Forum national conference and exhibition: partners in practice , Nottingham, United Kingdom.

Document Version:
Peer reviewed version

Queen's University Belfast - Research Portal:
[Link to publication record in Queen's University Belfast Research Portal](#)

Publisher rights
© 2015 The authors

General rights
Copyright for the publications made accessible via the Queen's University Belfast Research Portal is retained by the author(s) and / or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing these publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

Take down policy
The Research Portal is Queen's institutional repository that provides access to Queen's research output. Every effort has been made to ensure that content in the Research Portal does not infringe any person's rights, or applicable UK laws. If you discover content in the Research Portal that you believe breaches copyright or violates any law, please contact openaccess@qub.ac.uk.

Blending art and science in nurse education; the benefits and impact of creative partnerships

Maggie Bennett, Queens University Belfast; Dr Jenny Elliott, Arts Care, N.I.; Patricia Lavery, Arts Care, N.I.; Dr Katherine Rogers



Aim

This poster presents the benefits and impact of an innovative education partnership between lecturers from the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Queens University, Belfast and Arts Care, a unique Arts and Health Charity in Northern Ireland, to engage nursing students in life sciences.

Background

This project was funded by a Teaching Innovation Award from the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Queens University, Belfast, to explore creative ways of engaging year one undergraduate nursing students in learning anatomy and physiology. The complex organisation and function of the human body can be difficult to understand and many Nursing and Midwifery students lack confidence in their ability to study science.

Methodology

The project was facilitated through collaboration between teaching staff from the School of Nursing and Midwifery and Arts Care, Northern Ireland. This unique Arts and Health Charity believes in the benefits of creativity to well being. Artists from the charity facilitate participatory workshops and performances to make all forms of art accessible to patients, clients, residents and staff in health and social care setting across Northern Ireland. Twelve year one nursing students participated in a series of four workshops designed to creatively explore the cells, tissues and organs of the human body through the medium of felt. Facilitated by an artist from Arts Care, students and teachers translated their learning into striking felt images. The workshops were an environment of active and kinaesthetic learning, providing a unique and novel learning experience that helped students make sense of these challenging scientific concepts which are essential for professional nursing practice.

Benefits and impact

- Students valued the opportunity to engage in active kinesthetic learning
- Creativity transformed and brought to life the students' learning of the cells, tissues and organs of the human body
- Students and staff in the project experienced the benefits of creativity to personal well being
- Insight gained into how Arts Care makes all forms of creativity accessible to patients, clients and staff throughout the Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland
- The project culminated in the exhibition of a unique body of work which is currently on tour across Northern Ireland

Feedback from exhibition

Student; 'It is wonderful to see the pieces displayed - they have been framed and arranged beautifully. Thank you for such a fulfilling and meaningful experience. It really was a breath of fresh air.'

Visitor reaction; 'A unique and interesting perspective on parts of our bodies that are hidden from view - being able to look at these creative representations makes me reflect on them in a new way. Well done!'

If you would like further information about this project please contact;
Maggie Bennett m.bennett@qub.ac.uk or Dr Jenny Elliott ceo@artscare.co.uk

Bennett, M and Rogers, K.MA. (2014) First impressions matter: an active, innovative and engaging method to recruit student volunteers for a pedagogic project. *Reflections*, Available online at: QUB, Centre for Educational Development / Publications / Reflections Newsletter, Issue 18, June 2014.
Chickering, A. W. & Gamson, Z. F. 1987 Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education. *AAHE Bulletin*
Johnston, A. N. B. (2010). "Anatomy for nurses: Providing students with the best learning experience." *Nurse Education in Practice* 10(4): 222-226.

